

The Season's Children's Books

By HILDEGARDE HAWTHORNE.

Sixth Article. Miscellaneous Juveniles.

IN the last few days before Christmas, when there are still presents to be found, many and many a seeker after something that shall absolutely fill the bill must turn toward books as the best solution. There is never the harassing exhaustion in shopping for books found elsewhere. A book store is a good and pleasant place, the seeking for the right volume is an adventure of the most pleasurable, the other shoppers are not pushing, dragging and shrieking with haste and impatience as in other stores. The terrors of the toy shop during the final week or two do not exist in the book shop. Come there with me. Here are books for every age, the final roundup of the great Christmas lists and just as good and beautiful as those mentioned already.

There are some really delightful Indian stories that boys and girls both find full of interest and glamour. James Willard Shultz, who has been writing of the Blackfoot Indian for years and who is an adopted Blackfoot himself, has a fine new story full of keen adventure in "The Trail of the Spanish Horse" (Houghton, Mifflin), where his two characters, Tom Fox and Pitamakan, reappear. Is-spai-u, Tom's uncle's favorite horse, is stolen by the Crows in a night raid, through the fault of young Tom. The book tells the adventures of Tom and his Indian brother Pitamakan in recovering the horse. It is thrilling, full of real Indian lore and the wild life of older days than these.

"Moons of Long Ago," by Ellen Miller Donaldson (Milton, Bradley Company), is a collection of old Indian stories about the birds, animals and flowers known to them. It is filled with quaint imagination and folk quality and is delightfully told in a simple poetic English which will please children mightily. A more important collection is the one made by Elizabeth W. De Huff, "Tay-Tay's Tales," from Hopi sources (Harcourt, Brace). These stories were taken verbatim from Pueblo Indians and are illustrated most engagingly with pen and ink drawings and color plates by two Hopi Indian lads, Fred Kabotie and Otis Polelonema. Here, too, it is animals that play the largest part in the narrations, though fire and water and wind, magic rocks, witches and human beings have plenty to do. The book is fascinating from cover to cover and must have been a real labor of love. Grownup readers will find it well worth looking into.

Another book that features the Indian and the animals is "Dusty Star," by Olaf Baker, whose "Shasta of the Wolves" made many friends (Dodd, Mead). Dusty Star is an Indian boy who grows up a friend of the wolf cub he had caught in the forest and becomes a kind of half wolf himself, hunting and living with his friend and with an old bear. The illustrations are by Paul Bransome and are splendid. It is a book you can give to any boy or girl with the full certainty that you are giving something really worth while and tremendously interesting.

"The Mohawk Ranger," by D. Lange (Lothrop, Lee & Shepard), and "Three Sioux Scouts," by Elmer Russell Gregor (Appleton), are in a different class. The former is laid in the days of the French and Indian wars, and its hero is a friend of the colonists, an Indian hunter. Two boys play a large part in the incidents of the story. More thoroughly Indian is the second book, being one of Gregor's Indian series and having for the hero White Otter, who has played the same part in an earlier volume. The Indian character, with its steadfast faithfulness to friends, its high sense of honor and dauntless courage, is splendidly portrayed in the book.

A tale of Indians, but more especially of a horse, is the one by Forrestine C. Hooker, "Star, the Story of an Indian Pony" (Doubleday, Page). Mrs. Hooker knows both horses and Indians, for she has lived amid both with her husband, an officer in the United States Army. Her book has a most interesting preface by Gen. Nelson A. Miles, and it is worthy of a permanent position on your book shelves, even if the children for whom it was bought grow up beyond the age for children's books.

Next to Indian books we naturally put the stories of the West, and first among them, Frank B. Linderman's ripping tale, "Lige Mounts, Free Trapper" (Scribner's).

Here is a real book, told in the first person in the racy dialect of Lige, which has plenty of color, but is not in the slightest degree tiresome, as some dialect can be. It is the exciting narrative of an expedition to the headwaters of the Missouri in the year 1822, and there isn't a better book for a boy to be found, filled with action, true character study, humor, tragedy and adventure, and carrying a detailed picture of a great period.

A story that is one of a long series is "Grace Harlowe's Overland Riders in the Great North Woods," by Jessie Graham Flower (Aitemus), and is quite up to the rest in the long procession. There is, as always, a mystery, heaps of action, a good deal of outdoor information and much fun and excitement. Another story, more especially for girls, is "The Hill of Adventure," by Adair Aldon (Century), where a girl of 16 is the heroine, the scene is Montana, and particularly a large tract of its mountain territory owned by the heroine. A mystery develops, there is adventure

and well told. Leo E. Miller is the author, a favorite already because of his two preceding stories, all belonging to the same region.

Following this I will run over a group of animal stories, beginning with the pretty book by W. H. Koebel, "The Butterflies' Day" (Stokes), which, like the others already published in this same series, puts into charming story form facts about nature. It is butterflies and moths that are the subject here, the tale beginning in a kitchen garden where various caterpillars are busily at work eating leaves, and also talking. And it goes on until sleep time comes, and the butterflies, having laid their eggs, fold their wings and stop their flying. It is a delightfully done thing that loses nothing of value in the fairy touch it has, and it contains a lot of information which only too many adults will find new to them. There are exquisite drawings in line and color plates, both by Hilda T. Miller.

Florence Smith Vincent has followed her popular "Peter's Adventures in Meadow-



Cover Design for "Merry Christmas Booklets."
(Houghton, Mifflin Co.)

that comes close to death, and there is a very real portrayal of the wonder and the fascination of the mountains, and some mighty pleasant people.

Four other books of adventure are not set in the West. Two have boys for heroes, "Eight Bells," a corking modern pirate yarn by Edward Champe Carter (Cornhill Publishing Company), and "The Boy Explorers in Borneo," by Warren H. Miller (Harcourt, Brace). The latter is one of a series, and begins just as the ship holding the boys and the curator with whom they travel heaves close to Borneo, not yet in sight across the treacherous waters. These books are much better than the ordinary series of adventure tales, contain real information and are written with charm and intelligence. The boys and their leader are collecting specimens for a museum, so that much natural history comes easily into the course of the story, and every bit of it is reliable.

"Sandy Flash, the Highwayman of Castle Rock," by Capt. Clifton Lisle (Harcourt, Brace), is laid in Pennsylvania in Colonial days, and contains a great deal of enchanting detail about animal life and trapping and about wilderness existence as it was then in Chester Valley. There is a good story, too, with plenty of thrills, and the book will probably be a winner, as the first one, "Diamond Rock," has proved to be. Capt. Lisle is a born writer, and any one starting this book will want to finish it.

The remaining adventure story, "The Black Phantom" (Scribner's), is placed in the jungle of South America, and it is interested in recreating the life of the animals of the jungle, though the wild Indians of that wild region are also faithfully presented. A jaguar, Warruk, is the hero of the book and the superstitions of the Indians play their part. An absorbing yarn

land," with another story just as good, "Peter's Adventures in Birdland" (Stokes). Peter is a small boy who can talk bird talk and he flies about with the birds and finds out a great deal about them, and it is all told entertainingly and with plenty of information that will prove interesting to children and turn them to watching the bird neighbors of field and wood.

Next come four books about dogs, and the leading one is "Polaris, the Story of an Eskimo Dog," by Ernest Harold Baynes, with an introduction by Capt. Robert A. Bartlett, who sailed the Roosevelt for Peary and the Karluk for Stefansson (Macmillan). Polaris is a real dog, as readers will discover, and a glorious dog. Bartlett calls him the finest Eskimo dog in the world. His parents, Sipsu and Acutah, had reached the North Pole with Peary, and the best blood of the North ran in his veins. He was a wonderful silver white, perfectly beautiful, a dog in a thousand. He died as a sledge dog for Grenfell in Labrador when his time came. The book about him is a real saga. It is filled with pictures from photographs that are a sheer delight. No one who loves dogs can afford to miss this book, whether there are young folk in the family or not.

Sarah Noble Ives has collected a number of stories about dogs into a book and called the volume "Dog Heroes of Many Lands" (Century). She has, indeed, gone to many lands for her tales and brought back good ones, and she knows how to tell her stories dramatically and with full regard to the human element that often makes a part of the incidents related. Some of the stories are touching, some amusing; all are worth while and all show what a dog is capable of in the way of devotion and bravery. Then there is another book of dog stories, "Puppy Dogs"

Tales" (Macmillan), where many authors have been raided for stories on dogs and other animals, and it is a book that will be a joy to any house where there are little children. Francis Kent has done the editing. Many of the stories have been gathered at first hand by the author from animal lovers, and all are told or retold so as to appeal to youngsters. There are plenty of pictures.

"Pep; The Story of a Brave Dog," is the tale of a bull terrier belonging to a doctor, which finally reaches the scene of war and which there saves his master's life. But a great deal happens before that, told extremely well by Clarence Hawkes, who is a dog lover and who addresses his book to dog lovers. All boys and girls will love it (Milton Bradley Co.). That finishes the dogs. But there is one more book that might be included in the animal group, "Chico; The Story of a Homing Pigeon." It is a story of Venice, by Lucy M. Blanchard (Houghton Mifflin), where the wonderful city is the background to the lives of two little Venetians who have Chico for a pet. He is taken to the front to serve as messenger and carries back a message that brings the family who own him a reward. There is a lot of local color; there are tales told to the children by old Paolo, and altogether the little book will be treasured by small boys and girls. Still one more book must be included, "Outdoor Stories," originally published in *St. Nicholas* (Century), short stories by different authors, all having to do with the out of doors and the wide open spaces and animals and boys and hunters, good things that are full of life and adventure.

From animals to men is a proper step, and I will now turn to the historical group, beginning appropriately with Frederic Arnold Kummer's "The First Days of Man," which is announced as the first volume of the Earth's Story, narrated simply for young readers. Mr. Kummer has told the story of the gradual rise of man from the beasts, and of his early discoveries and triumphs, as a romance, which it assuredly is. He brings his narration down to the end of the Stone Age, shows man beginning to fashion things from the metals, beginning to sail the seas and to trade and invent. There is a frontispiece in color by Thomas Fogarty, and many line drawings, some from museum pieces.

"Buried Cities," by Jennie Hall (Macmillan), tells the story of three cities, Pompeii, Olympia and Mycenae. She has written for children of 10 or 11, and she has made an interesting book, filled with information that is as exciting as any story. Miss Hall as a teacher has told these tales to children, and they have been so much liked

Continued on Page Twenty-one.

P. A. Kinsley, Philadelphia
Record, says of

**HONORÉ
WILLSIE'S**

New novel of the West:
"Not only her best but one
of the greatest novels of the
year. . . Justifies any word
of praise that can be said
of it." \$2.00.

**JUDITH
OF THE
GODLESS VALLEY**

By the author of
"The Enchanted Canyon"
STOKES, Publisher

GIGOLO
Pronounced "zhigolo"

By EDNA FERBER

"And if anyone else, in this
country or in England, is writ-
ing short stories that compare
with them, they do not appear."
—N. Y. Herald.

Price, \$1.75

DOUBLEDAY, PAGE & CO.